

TRIBUTE TO BRYANNE SALAZAR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize the accomplishments of Bryanne Salazar of Grand Junction, Colorado. Several years ago, Bryanne founded Mothers Inc. to assist other mothers in the difficult and important task of child rearing and to provide a forum in which mothers around the country could share their advice, experiences and support one another financially and socially.

Mothers Inc. provides many forms of assistance to mothers, including financial aid, job training, food, clothing and opportunities to meet and form bonds with other mothers. Mothers Inc. is a non-profit organization that raises money through bake sales, garage sales, and the sale of t-shirts and aprons. Her efforts truly embody the spirit and greatness of this nation. Through Mothers Inc., Bryanne has contributed greatly to the welfare of many women and children and served as an inspiration to those with whom she has come in contact.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me a profound pleasure to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to Bryanne Salazar, a remarkable woman who has worked to improve the lives of so many families. The children whom Bryanne has helped are the future of this nation and it is comforting to know they are in such good hands. Bryanne, thank you for your many contributions to the mothers and children of Colorado and for your persevering spirit that has inspired so many.

JUNETEENTH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today Texans and people across America celebrate Juneteenth.

On this day in 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended. Two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Texas slaves heard for the first time they were free.

Mr. Speaker, there is no other land on earth like America, but we've had our share of failings. And we've had no greater failing than allowing slavery to exist in the land of the free.

Here we are, 140 years later. And although we have made great progress, we still live in a color conscious society.

We should all remember and aspire to the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King . . . to live in a nation where our children will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Juneteenth reminds us to live our lives toward that dream. To make a more perfect Union by making America more free.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SCHOOL OF UKRAINIAN STUDIES**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the School of Ukrainian Studies in Cleveland, Ohio.

For more than fifty years, the School of Ukrainian Studies has educated thousands of Americans regarding all facets of the Ukraine—its language, culture, history, customs, religion and art. The School fosters a sense of diversity and continuity between the old country and new and reflects a vital cultural component that defines our Cleveland community—a community that is home to countless Americans whose lifelines originate from points around the world—reaching across borders, time and distance.

The School of Ukrainian Studies ensures that the culture of the Ukraine remains a conscious and vibrant aspect of the fabric of our American community, handed down through the children of each new generation. For decades, Ukrainian immigrants have understood the significance of assimilation, yet they also share an equally strong focus on preserving the ideals and tradition of their beloved Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the administrators and students of the School of Ukrainian Studies of Cleveland, as they celebrate fifty years of Ukrainian education. Cultural diversity is the foundation and light of America—adding color; depth and life to our Cleveland community—bridging old world and new, connecting our past to today. As Americans, our shared commitment to celebrate and preserve our many lands of origin unites us.

RECOGNIZING OF MR. YASHVANT
PATEL AND MATRI, INC.**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. Yashvant Patel, and the organization he created, Matri, Inc. Mr. Patel and Matri, Inc. have created a unique and important forum where Gujarati youth can uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner using more modern methods. This forum has been the starting ground for many happy couples, and has provided a much-needed service to America's young Gujarati people.

Mr. Patel founded Matri, Inc. in 1995 with a specific vision of a forum where Gujarati youths could uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner. The first Matri was hosted by Anand Pragati Mandal in Kearny, NJ, and it had less than 100 attendees. In the last nine years the event has grown drastically and become a professional non-profit organization, providing annual conventions with over 300 participants.

Matri serves an important role in the unique Gujarati youth culture. Although it is a mat-

rimonial forum, it does not force ideas of marriage but instead encourages networking and meeting with people who share similar ideas and principles, who may become lifelong friends or even marriage partners in the future. It is their belief that similarities in dharma, poshaak and khorak (religion, dress and food) are necessary to create a successful marriage. Matri allows Gujarati parents to fulfill their duty to pave the way for their children and give them a prosperous and happy life by honoring Gujarati traditions.

Matri is actually the Sanskrit term for friendship, which is a key element in any successful marriage. Since the participants are allowed to meet without the pressure of parents, the event gives them the opportunity to meet other people and develop relationships. Matri estimates that approximately 15 percent of all participants with success each year.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Patel and his organization for the fine and important work they have done over the past eight years. His organization is doing an enormously important service to an important group of our nation's citizens, and we thank him for it.

LIBERIA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, after six years in power and over a decade as a regional warlord there are signs that Liberian President Charles Taylor, one of the worst violators of human rights in the world may be leaving power. On June 17, the Associated Press reported that the Liberian Defense Minister Daniel Chea committed Taylor to step down as part of a peace agreement with rebel groups fighting his government. Taylor's rule has been marked by human rights violations on a massive scale.

Currently Liberia is enmeshed in a vicious civil war. According to the Associated Press, "The past three years of rebellion have uprooted more than 1.3 million Liberians, sending hundreds of thousands of them fleeing into neighboring countries." His rule has not only brought death and destruction to Liberia but undermined stability throughout West Africa. He sponsored the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone, a rebel group which conducted a gruesome campaign of murders, rapes and kidnappings. The RUF became known for chopping off the arms, lips and hands of their victims. Taylor has supported rebel groups in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Burkina Faso as well.

Last week a U.N.-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone indicted Taylor accusing him of "bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law" during Sierra Leone's civil war. As the brave men and women of our armed forces work to bring peace and stability to the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq it is important to point to other victims of human rights abuses in other parts of the world that do not receive as much media attention. The Bush administration has spoken about the importance of promoting human rights and democracy, but has done little to support the aspirations for

freedom on the part of the Liberians despite Liberia's deep historical ties to the United States. We can and should do all that we can to support the peaceful removal from power of Charles Taylor and ensure that he faces the charges brought against him by the U.N.-backed court.

TRIBUTE TO DIANNE PARKISON OF
UNION CITY, MICHIGAN, EXCEP-
TIONAL TEACHER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, education is the key for our Nation's future prosperity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement rests partly in the hands of our teachers. Today I would like to recognize a teacher from Union City, MI that most influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership that were winners of the LeGrand Smith scholarship.

Dianne Parkison teaches history at Union City High School. She is credited for instilling in students an enthusiasm for the subject and for life itself. In one student's own words, "Not only has Mrs. Parkison taught me a better respect for the struggles that have been endured throughout the history of the United States, she has taught me a lot about life." The respect and gratitude of her students speaks well of Mrs. Parkison's ability to challenge young minds to stretch the mental muscles and strive to achieve the best that is in them.

Dianne Parkison's excellence in teaching challenges and inspires students to move beyond the teenage tendency toward surface study and encourage deeper thought and connections to the real world. No profession is more important in its influence and daily interaction with the future leaders of our community and our country, and Dianne Parkison's impact on her students is certainly deserving of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Mrs. Dianne Parkison as a master teacher. We thank her for her continuing dedication to teaching and her willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students for leadership and success.

TRIBUTE TO AVRMC

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to a hospital with a long history of service. The Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center in La Junta, Colorado is celebrating its 75th anniversary, and I am honored today to recognize this outstanding facility.

The hospital began as a treatment clinic for tuberculosis 99 years ago, before becoming a full-service hospital in 1928. Although the facility was much smaller and operated under a different name then, it still gave the best quality care possible, just as it does today.

Medicine has changed significantly in the 75 years since the hospital first opened its doors, with numerous innovations improving the manner in which we care for the ill. However, the Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center has always kept up-to-date with the latest medical procedures. After 75 years, the Arkansas Valley complex now includes a health clinic, veteran's clinic, and doctor's offices in addition to the hospital itself.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center. Its outstanding care and commitment to the citizens of the Arkansas Valley deserves the praise and recognition of this body of Congress. Congratulations on 75 great years, and thank you for your service to the people of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO MISS LEONIE
BARRETT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pride that I rise today to recognize an outstanding young citizen in my district, Miss Leonie Barrett. A thirteen year-old student at the Oliver Street School in Newark, New Jersey, Leonie has certainly made a significant impact on our world community.

In February 2002, Leonie and her classmate Jennifer were introduced to Mr. Harry Ettlinger. A survivor of the Holocaust, Mr. Ettlinger is a participant in the "Adopt-a-Survivor" program, a program that pairs Holocaust survivors with young members of the community. Through this match, the first made in the program which is sponsored by the Holocaust Council of the United Jewish Communities of MetroWest, Mr. Ettlinger shared his story with Leonie. To have your voice heard and to continue to remember is a very important aspect of Holocaust history. By continuing to tell their stories, survivors of the Holocaust remind us so that we will never forget, so that history will never repeat itself, and that the voices of those who lost their lives will not be forgotten. Leonie is now a part of this commitment, to tell Mr. Ettlinger's story so that it will not be forgotten.

She has committed to tell that story until 2045, the 100th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

To say that Mr. Ettlinger and Leonie have significantly impacted each others lives would seem to not do justice to their relationship. In addition to committing to tell his story, Leonie has also helped to reconnect Mr. Ettlinger with his past and a dear friend, Hanne Hirsch, whom he had not seen or heard from since Nazi occupation of their small town of Karlsruhe, Germany. On a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington, Leonie noticed that one of the identity cards that are issued to visitors, recounting the lives of individuals who were involved in the Holocaust, was from Mr. Ettlinger's hometown. The two had been separated for sixty-four years, not knowing the fate of the other. With the help of Leonie the two were reunited and have been able to share their stories with each other and with Leonie.

As a member of the International Relations Committee here in the U.S. House of Representatives and a former Social Studies teacher, I understand the significance of the

relationship between Mr. Ettlinger and Leonie as well as the commitment and dedication both have given to this important and significant personal history. I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives not only join me today in recognizing this tremendous friendship but also in commending Leonie for her own personal dedication to continuing the voice of Mr. Ettlinger and ensuring that the stories of Holocaust survivors are not lost to future generations.

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE
McDERMOTT SMITH OF SHARON,
CT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mrs. JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Catherine McDermott Smith, of Sharon, Connecticut. Catherine was a dedicated citizen and leader in the Sharon community. Her untimely death is an enormous loss to her family and to our entire community.

Catherine Smith and her five-year-old youngest son John Forrester Smith died from injuries sustained in an automobile crash late last summer. They were en route to their home in Connecticut after dropping off her oldest son for freshman orientation at the University of Virginia. Mrs. Smith is survived by her husband Frank Smith, daughters Mary and Katherine and son Tony all of Sharon, Connecticut; her parents Mary and Anthony McDermott of Glen Cove, New York; six brothers, many nieces and nephews. In addition, she is survived by a multitude of friends and associates garnered through the years from her "people oriented love," politics.

A native of Oyster Bay, New York, Cathy graduated from Hofstra University and New York University. She became involved in politics as a child and eventually ran many campaigns and fundraising events. This prompted a move to the Washington area where she started an extremely effective direct mail solicitation company. Her appointments to various state boards and commissions have been numerous. She worked as speech writer, communications director, and chief of staff to numerous national office holders. Having long enjoyed Connecticut's lovely northwest corner as a family vacation spot, she and her family moved there just over 2 years ago. Already she was an active member of the community.

Catherine Smith was an outgoing, articulate, competitive person that demanded much more of herself than of others. She was most capable of analyzing a problem, finding the solution, and then doggedly pursuing the correction until conquered. While firm, she was compassionate and obliging; along with her trademark of a smile, twinkle and a laugh, she was able to unselfishly motivate the people she loved and befriended.

Mr. Speaker it is with sadness that we remember the life and memory of Catherine and her son, Jack. As family and friends mourn their passing, I would like to recognize the wonderful life Cathy lived. She will be missed.